

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 25 to 40 are now present in this application, with claims 17-24 being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and with new claims 25-40 being added by the present amendment. Currently, claims 1, 9, 29 and 35 are the sole remaining independent claims in connection with the present application.

Election/Restriction Requirement

Applicant acknowledges the election of Group I, including claims 1-16 for prosecution in this application. Claims 17-24 of Group II have been canceled and Applicant respectfully reserves the right to file a divisional application on the subject matter of these claims. Further, new claims 25-40 are also claims directed to an integrated circuit of Group I, and not the method of Group II including canceled claims 17-24. Thus, it is respectfully noted that each of claims 25-40 are also subject to examination in connection with the present application.

Personal Interview

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Thai for the personal interview conducted on April 1, 2003. At the personal interview Applicant's representative submitted, for interview discussion purposes only, the claim amendments, claim cancellations and new claims now presented in the present Amendment. These claim amendments and new claims were discussed at the personal interview, in the context of how each of the claims of the present application distinguished from the prior art of record.

At the personal interview, Applicant's representative proposed that claim 1 be amended to include the limitation of an additional input/output bond pad, in addition to the pair of connected bond pads previously present in the claims. Applicant's representative indicated that such a claim amendment would clarify the distinction of claim 1 over the Fjelstad reference and the Manning et al reference, taken either singly or in combination, as follows.

It was noted that proposed amended claim 1 now indicated that the semiconductor die include at least one pair of bond pads and an input/output bond pad, a feature not taught or suggested by the prior art of record, either taken singularly or in combination (even assuming *arguendo* that they could be combined). Specifically, it was noted that the teachings of the Fjelstad reference included, at best, only a contact and a bond pad pair as shown in Figs. 5 and 14 for example. It was further noted that the teachings of Manning et al also included, at best, only a pair of bond pads. Thus, even assuming *arguendo* that Manning et al could be combined with Fjelstad, which was not admitted, it would still fail to make up for the deficiencies of Fjelstad.

Somewhat similar arguments were made with regard to the integrated circuit of claim 9 including at least one pair of electrical termination means and an input/output termination means; claim 29 including a first bond pad and a second bond pad, including a first and second portion; and claim 35 including a first electrical termination means and a second electrical termination means, having a first and second portion.

At the personal interview, the Examiner briefly reviewed Applicant's proposed amendments and indicated that he would need to further consider the amendments in view of the prior art and a potential further search. This is reflected in the Examiner's interview summary record. The Examiner agreed, however, to review the proposed claims, review the prior art,

conduct a further search, and then contact Applicant's representative via telephone shortly thereafter.

After review of the claims and prior art, the Examiner contacted Applicant's representative on April 1, 2003 via telephone. In a telephone interview conducted with the Applicant's representative, Examiner Thai agreed that if formally presented, the amended claims and new claims would be allowable and would clearly distinguish over the prior art of record. The Examiner indicated that the rejection would be withdrawn. At that time, the telephone interview was concluded.

Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 6-10 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fjelstad. This rejection is respectfully traversed and is further inapplicable to new claims 25-40, for at least the reasons presented in the personal and telephonic interviews summarized above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3-5 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Fjelstad in view of Manning et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed and is further inapplicable to new claims 25-40, for at least the reasons presented in the personal and telephonic interviews as summarized above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of all outstanding objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-16 and 25-40 in

connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$110.00 extension fee herewith.

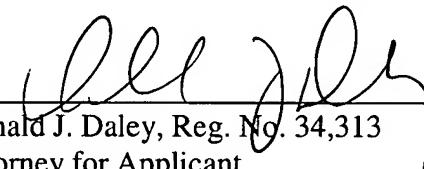
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313 at the telephone number (703) 390-3030.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By


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